Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices to recommend a Long Term Grain Policy for the country. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as follows:—

(i) Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) and Price Support Operations.

(ii) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) related issues.

(iii) Functioning of the Public Distribution System (PDS).

(iv) Grain Policy regarding buffer stocks, open market intervention and export/import.

(v) Allocation of foodgrains in Rural Development and other Welfare Programmes. The Committee has so far not submitted its final report.

Loss suffered by procuring agencies in Madhya Pradesh

†2598. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether paddy and wheat procuring agencies in Madhya Pradesh have suffered losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would take necessary steps to ensure that such procuring agencies do not suffer losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) As per present policy, incidental charges for procurement of foodgrains for the Central Pool are fixed in consultation with the representatives of the State Government. The difference between the Economic Cost of the State Government and the Central Issue Price is reimbursed to the State Government as subsidy.

Export of subsidised wheat

2599. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that India has exported more subsidised wheat than it sold to the domestic poor living below the poverty line as PDS offtake dips below wheat-exports;

(b) if so, whether India has exported to South Korea, Malaysia, Bangladesh, UAE, Indonesia, Oman, Iraq and Philippines to the tune of 1.6 million whereas 1.2 tonnes were provided to the people living Below Poverty Line in the country; and

(c) if so, why this wheat was not provided to the people living Below Poverty Line?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The allocation and lifting for BPL families and wheat sold for export by F.C.I. is as under:—

Fig. In lakh MTs

Year	Allotment	Lifting	Export Sale
2000-2001	63.82	25.08	18.76
2001-2002 (Upto June, 2001)	15.71	5.30	14.24 (31.7.2001)
Total	79.53	30.38	33.00

Out of 33 lakh MTs allocated for exports, 28.99 lakh MTs has been shipped by the PSUs/Agencies till 31st July, 2001. Also for each of the months of July, August, and September, 2001, 6.40 lakh MTs of wheat has been allotted for the BPL families. A total quantity of 19.84 lakh MTs (upto 22.6.2001) has been exported to Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Oman, Philippines, South Korea and UAE by PSUs/agencies.

(c) The wheat was exported because (i) lifting of wheat under the BPL/APL categories by various State Governments/U.T.s were much below the allocation; (ii) it obviated deterioration of stocks and (iii) helped vacate storage space for further procurement. However, the following steps were also taken by the Government to improve off take of wheat from the Central Pool:—

(1) Enhanced Allocations of foodgrains for BPL families w.e.f. July 2001 from 20 kg. to 25 kg. per family per month under the T.P.D.S.

(2) Supply of foodgrains at BPL rates for various welfare schemes.

(3) Free of cost allocation to drought affected States for employment generation programmes.

(4) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana Scheme has been launched to supply rice and wheat at Rs. 3/- and Rs. 2-/ per kg. respectively to the poorest of the poor families.

Demutualisation of future trading of sugar

2600. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided not to opt for complete demutualisation in future trading of sugar;

(b) if so, whether Government have also asked the applicants to have non-trading partners as at least one third of the members on their board; and